

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
SS-15 SP-02 ACDA-10 DHA-02 NEA-10 IO-13 DODE-00
/071 W

-----282343Z 015227 /66

O 282200Z MAR 77 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 3024

FOR S/PRS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 056619

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S
PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
MARCH 28 2030 HOURS LOCAL TIME:

(BEGIN TEXT)

SECRETARY VANCE: WE'VE HAD TWO MEETINGS TODAY--THE FIRST
MEETING WAS ABOUT TWO AND A HALF HOURS IN LENGTH, I BELIEVE.
THAT WAS A MEETING ATTENDED BY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV
AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. (ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARTER
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POINTS OUT THAT A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN GIVEN
OUT EARLIER.) THIS AFTERNOON THE GENERAL SECRETARY DID
NOT ATTEND. IT WAS ATTENDED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY,
THE DEPUTY MINISTER. (AMBASSADOR TOON LISTS THOSE WHO
ATTENDED.) THIS MORNING WE DISCUSSED THE ASSESSMENT OF
BOTH SIDES WITH RESPECT TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IN THE
FUTURE. THIS WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND THEN A DIALOGUE

BACK AND FORTH WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED IN WHAT AMOUNTED TO SORT OF THE OPENING STATEMENTS ON THE PART OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND MYSELF. THIS AFTERNOON WE DEVOTED THE WHOLE AFTERNOON TO SALT. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS I PUT FORWARD THE TWO PROPOSALS WHICH YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH. THE SOVIETS, ON THEIR SIDE, MADE CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS. WE DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS MATTERS AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. I DON'T THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE TO GO INTO THE DETAIL OF OUR DISCUSSION. THERE WILL COME A TIME LATER ON WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU MORE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE PLANS AND THE DISCUSSION, BUT I JUST DON'T THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE AT THIS JUNCTURE TO GET INTO ANY OF THAT KIND OF DETAIL BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO BE RESUMING AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING AT 11:00 TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CHARACTERIZE IN GENERAL AT ALL THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL?

SEC. VANCE: I THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO DO SO. LET ME JUST SAY THAT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS BUSINESS-LIKE. IT WAS NOT REJECTED OUT OF HAND.

QUESTION: WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, SIR, COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER THE SOVIETS OFFERED A PROPOSAL?

SEC. VANCE: WELL, THEY DID OFFER A PROPOSAL. IT IS A PROPOSAL THAT WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH. IN ESSENCE THEY HAVE SUGGESTED THIS PROPOSAL BEFORE. THERE WERE SOME VARIATIONS
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ON IT BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID MR. BREZHNEV RAISE THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THIS MORNING?

SEC. VANCE: HE DID.

QUESTION: IN WHAT WAY?

SEC VANCE: HE MADE A STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I RESPONDED TO THAT AND, AGAIN, I REALLY DON'T THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE TO GO INTO DETAIL AS TO WHAT WAS SAID.

QUESTION: WAS HIS STATEMENT WHAT YOU EXPECTED OR WAS IT STRONGER THAN YOU EXPECTED? DID IT TAKE YOU OFF GUARD?

SEC VANCE: IT DID NOT TAKE ME OFF GUARD.

QUESTION: IF WE COULD TURN TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MOMENT. WE WERE TOLD THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IN HIS TOAST, IN THE PART ABOUT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, SAID "CAN'T WE DECIDE ON PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF," WHICH WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY THAT THE SOVIETS WERE READY TO ATTEND GENEVA WITHOUT HAVING AS A PREREQUISITE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. IS THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HE SAID? IF SO, DO YOU FEEL THAT BREAKS WITH...

SEC VANCE: HE SAID SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES. WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT I AM NOT SURE. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION LATER ON DURING OUR TALKS AND DURING THAT PORTION OF THE TALKS I DO INTEND TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HE DID MEAN TO SAY.

QUESTION: YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR RESPONSE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE; YET THE SOVIET PRESS AGENCY MADE PUBLIC IN SOME DETAIL ALLEGEDLY WHAT BREZHNEV SAID TO YOU. I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR FOR OUR READERS THAT WE HAVE SOME IDEA OF YOUR RESPONSE TO HIM.

SEC VANCE: I HAVEN'T SEEN WHAT THEY SAID. I'LL READ WHAT THEY SAID AND THEN I'LL COMMENT TOMORROW.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU LIKE US TO READ YOU WHAT THEY SAID RIGHT NOW? THE SOVIETS COME ON QUITE STRONG, MR. SECRETARY.

SEC VANCE: WHAT DID THEY SAY?

QUESTION: I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE, IF YOU'LL WAIT JUST A MOMENT. THE KEY PART WENT LIKE THIS: TASS BEGAN BY SAYING THAT BREZHNEV MADE HIS STATEMENT AND THEN IT WENT ON TO SAY "AT THE SAME TIME AN APPROPRIATE APPRAISAL WAS GIVEN OF THOSE MOMENTS IN U.S. POLICY WHICH DO NOT SQUARE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EACH OTHER, AND MUTUAL BENEFIT, WITHOUT THE OBSERVANCE OF WHICH THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS IMPOSSIBLE."

SEC. VANCE: LET ME SIMPLY SAY THIS: THAT I MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION SPRINGS OUT OF FUNDAMENTAL VALUES WHICH WE HOLD; THAT WE ARE DIFFERENT SOCIETIES, WE HAVE DIFFERENT VALUES; THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO SINGLE OUT THE SOVIET UNION IN WHAT WE SAY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS; THAT OUR CONCERNS ARE UNIVERSAL IN NATURE AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE BELIEVE IS APPROPRIATE IN THE OVERALL QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THAT, IN ESSENCE, IS WHAT I SAID.

QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU CLEARED THE AIR OR THAT
YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE MORE DISCUSSION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS?

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SEC. VANCE: NO, I THINK THE AIR IS PRETTY CLEAR NOW.

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, IS IT YOUR IMPRESSION THAT AS A
RESULT OF THIS EXCHANGE THAT SUBJECT IS OVER WITH OR IS
IT GOING TO PLAY A PART?

SEC VANCE: NO, I WOULD EXPECT IT IS OVER WITH FOR THESE
DISCUSSIONS.

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SP-02 ACDA-10 DHA-02 NEA-10 IO-13 DODE-00 CCO-00
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-----282342Z 015373 /66

O 282200Z MAR 77 ZFF-4
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SECTO 03024

FOR S/PRS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, ON SALT, WHEN YOU SAID THE SOVIETS
MADE A POSITION WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH...

SEC. VANCE: WHAT I SAID WAS WE ALL ARE FAMILIAR WITH.

QUESTION: SO THAT THERE'S NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON OUR PART, MY ASSUMPTION IS THAT THEY PROPOSED KEEPING THE 2400 LIMIT AND INCLUDING THE CRUISE MISSILE IN IT. IS THAT A FAIR ASSUMPTION?

SEC. VANCE: YES, IT IS, INCLUDING THE CRUISE MISSILE.

QUESTION: DO YOU REGARD IT SIGNIFICANT, SIR, THAT BREZHNEV DID NOT SHOW UP THIS AFTERNOON?

SEC. VANCE: NO, NOT AT ALL.
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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU EXPLAIN AT ALL-- YOU SAID YOU LAID OUT BOTH PROPOSALS. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU MENTIONED FIRST THE COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL AND THEN YOU WENT IMMEDIATELY TO RAISE THE SECOND PROPOSAL AS WELL? COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS?

SEC. VANCE: THEY WERE BOTH RAISED SIDE BY SIDE.

QUESTION: SIMULTANEOUSLY?

SEC. VANCE: YES.

QUESTION: DID THEY ASK YOU--WITHOUT YOU TELLING US THE ANSWER--BUT DID THEY ASK YOU WHAT TYPE OF, HOW FAR THE DEEP REDUCTION COULD GO APPROXIMATELY?

SEC. VANCE: I GAVE IT TO THEM IN APPROXIMATION.

QUESTION: DO YOU HOPE OR HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT YOU MIGHT GET A SOVIET RESPONSE BEFORE YOU LEAVE MOSCOW?

SEC. VANCE: YES. THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD GIVE US A RESPONSE.

QUESTION: WILL YOU DISCUSS THAT TOMORROW MORNING? WILL THIS GO ON WITH SALT OR MOVE TO OTHER ISSUES?

SEC. VANCE: I BELIEVE WE'LL START WITH SALT TOMORROW.

QUESTION: THEN YOUR GENERAL APPRAISAL IS THAT IT IS AN OPTIMISTIC...

SEC. VANCE: I AM NOT GOING TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC. I WILL SAY THAT WE HAD A

BUSINESSLIKE DISCUSSION WHICH WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW.

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QUESTION: ARE THEY MAKING PROGRESS ON SALT DEPENDENT
UPON ANY ACTION BY US ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

SEC. VANCE: NO.

QUESTION: SIR, MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU SEE ANY PROGRESS AS
A RESULT OF ONE DAY'S TALK TOWARD THIS FRAMEWORK WHICH
YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

SEC. VANCE: WELL, I THINK THE FACT THAT WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT IT AND SERIOUS QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED BACK AND
FORTH ON IT IS SOME PROGRESS. BUT I DON'T WANT TO BLOW
IT UP AS ANY GREAT THING.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK, SIR, THAT YOU'LL BE LEAVING
THURSDAY MORNING ON SCHEDULE?

SEC. VANCE: AS I'VE SAID ALL ALONG, IF WE'RE MAKING
PROGRESS AND THERE'S A PURPOSE IN CONTINUING ON THROUGH
THURSDAY, I'M PREPARED TO STAY THROUGH THURSDAY, FRIDAY,
OR HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND GROMYKO'S
COMMENTS ON THAT: DID YOU FEEL THAT THE SOVIET POSITION
HAS BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE?

SEC. VANCE: I COULDN'T REALLY TELL; THERE WASN'T THAT MUCH OF IT
IN THE TOAST TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS. WE ARE
GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A FULL DISCUSSION TO REALLY GET AN
IDEA ON WHAT'S INVOLVED.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ON SALT. WILL THE PRIMARY ISSUE
BE TRYING TO UNRAVEL WITH THE INHIBITIONS THAT ARE ON YOU...
I ASSUME FROM WHAT YOU SAID WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME THAT THE
SOVIET POSITION WILL BE WHAT MUST BE VERY MUCH AS WHAT
IT WAS AT THE END OF JANUARY OF 1976 AND FEBRUARY 1976.
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SEC. VANCE: THAT'S A FAIR ASSUMPTION. I'LL TAKE A COUPLE
OF MORE QUESTIONS BECAUSE I'VE GOT TO GET SOMETHING
TO EAT AND THEN GO TO WORK.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IN MR. GROMYKO'S TOAST HE REPEATED THEIR STANDARD SUPPORT OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. THEN HE SAID, AS WE GOT IT, "A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH FROM THE U.S. SIDE WILL ALWAYS BE MET WITH UNDERSTANDING FROM THE USSR." DID YOU REGARD THAT AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT THEY WOULD BE READY TO CONSIDER SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A SIMPLE RATIFICATION OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT?

SEC. VANCE: I LISTENED TO THAT PART WITH GREAT INTEREST, BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO CHARACTERIZE IT.

QUESTION: WELL, WAS THERE ANYTHING IN THE TALKS THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU CHARACTERIZE IT?

SEC. VANCE: NO, IT IS TOO EARLY IN THE TALKS TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES RAISED THE BASIC QUESTION WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, THAT THEY OBJECT TO A NEW ADMINISTRATION COMING IN WITH A FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT APPROACH?

SEC. VANCE: YES, THAT QUESTION WAS RAISED AS ONE OF THE ITEMS. WE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE...WELL, I'M GETTING INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL.

QUESTION: DID MR. GROMYKO DO MOST OF THE TALKING ON THE SOVIET SIDE IN THE AFTERNOON?

SEC. VANCE: YES, HE DID.
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(END TEXT). VANCE

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Message Attributes

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From: SECRETARY MOSCOW
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